

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 7-10 and 25-26 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1-6, 8, 10-12, 23-24, and 26-31 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 23, and 29 are independent. By the foregoing Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1, 4, 8, 10, 23, and 26, canceled claims 7, 9 and 25, added claims 29-31, and amended the Drawings. It is believed that these changes introduce no new matter and their entry is respectfully requested.

Objection to the Drawings

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings for failure to show description labels for parts 114-116, 148, 152, 155, and 158 in Figure 1 and parts 374, 381, and 385 in Figure 3 as described in the Specification. By the foregoing Amendment, Applicants have added description labels for parts 114-116, 148, 152, 155, and 158 in Figure 1 and parts 374, 381, and 385 in Figure 3. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and remove the objection to the Drawings.

Objection to Claims 1, 4, and 23

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 1, 4, and 23 citing informalities. By the foregoing Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1, 4, and 23 to accommodate the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and remove the objection to claims 1, 4, and 23.

Rejection of Claims 1-6, 11-12, 23-24, and 27-28 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

In paragraph 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 11-12, 23-24, and 27-28 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,442,722 B1 to Nadeau-Dostie et al. (hereinafter "Nadeau-Dostie"). A claim is anticipated only if each and every element of the claim is found, either expressly or inherently, in a reference. (MPEP §2131 citing *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628 (Fed. Cir.1987)).

The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim. *Id.*

citing Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co., 868 F.2d 1226,1236 (Fed. Cir. 1989)). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

In paragraph 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Amended independent claim 1 includes the subject matter from dependent claim 7. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-6 and 11-12 properly depend from claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-6 and 11-12 are allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable. (*See*, for example, MPEP §2143.03.) Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and remove the rejection to claims 1-6 and 11-12.

In paragraph 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 25 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Amended independent claim 23 includes the subject matter from dependent claim 25. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 23 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 24 and 27-28 properly depend from claim 23. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 24 and 27-28 are allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 23 is allowable. (*See*, for example, MPEP §2143.03.) Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and remove the rejection to claims 23-24 and 27-28.

New Claims 29-31

In paragraph 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. New claim 29 includes the subject matter of claims 1 and 9.

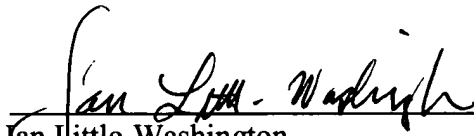
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that new claim 29 is in condition for allowance. Claims 30-31 properly depend from claim 29. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 30 are allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 29 is allowable. (*See*, for example, MPEP §2143.03.) Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner pass claims 29-31 to allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that all grounds for rejection have been properly traversed, rendered moot, or accommodated, and that the application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned representative if the Examiner believes that an interview might be useful for any reason.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

Date: 4/26/2006


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on April 26, 2006.
Date of Deposit

Yuko Tanaka

Name of Person Mailing Correspondence

Y. Tanaka
Signature

April 26, 2006
Date

DRAWING AMENDMENTS

The attached drawing sheets include changes to Figures 1 and 3. The Replacement Sheets replace the original sheets including Figures 1 and 3. The Replacement Sheet for Figure 1 adds description labels for parts 114-116, 148, 152, 155, and 158. The Replacement Sheet for Figure 3 adds description labels for parts 374, 381, and 385.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet